



## About Alaska's School Climate and Connectedness Survey ©

### **What is the School Climate & Connectedness Survey (SCCS) ?**

The School Climate and Connectedness Survey (SCCS) is a voluntary statewide survey taken by students and staff since 2006. It was developed by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) in partnership with the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB).

### **What does the survey measure?**

SCCS measures positive school climate, how connected students feel to adults and peers, social and emotional learning (SEL), and observed risk behaviors at school or school events. There are two student surveys (grades 3-5 and grades 6-12), one staff survey, and one family survey (**new in 2018**) available to school districts.

### **How do you define school climate?**

School climate refers to the quality and character of school life. The climate reflects social and emotional learning, norms, goals, values, interpersonal relationships, teaching and learning practices and organizational structures of that school. Positive school climate is associated with well-managed classrooms and common areas, high and clearly stated expectations concerning individual responsibility, feeling safe at school, and teachers and staff who consistently acknowledge all students and fairly address their behavior.

### **How do you define connectedness?**

School connectedness refers to students' school experiences and their perceptions and feelings about school. This includes feeling that they are a part of the school, that adults at the school care about them personally, that their learning matters and is a high priority, that they are close to people at school and have supportive relationships with adults, and that teachers and staff consistently treat them with respect.

### **Does the survey require parental/guardian consent?**

No, this survey does not require active parental consent. However, we recommend that districts inform parents/guardians about the survey, and allow them to review a sample of the student survey. Parents/Guardians can elect to opt their child(ren) out.

### **When is the survey administered?**

In 2020, districts select a two-week window from January 20- March 20 for students and staff. The family survey window is open the entire time.

### **How is the survey administered?**

Surveys are taken on-line. Each school receives unique survey links.

### **Who took the survey?**

In 2019, 12,378 grade 3-5 students, 26,816 grade 6-12 students, 5,566 staff and 2,509 families from 31 school districts.

**For more information, contact Jenni Lefing at [jlefig@asb.org](mailto:jlefig@asb.org)**